

Wisconsin's Early Childhood Advisory Council

Purpose, Process and Structure

ECAC Website:

<http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/ecac/default.htm>

Background:

The Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) was established by Executive Order in November 2008 under the Head Start Reauthorization Act of 2007, which required a State Council to be created that would build upon the existing state wide early childhood programs and services. The ECAC builds upon the work of the Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners (WECCP), the Children's Trust Fund Board, Partners for Wisconsin Economic Success and the Birth to Three Interagency Coordinating Council.

Vision:

Every child will be healthy, nurtured, safe and successful.

Mission:

The mission of the Council is to help ensure that all children and families in Wisconsin have access to high quality early childhood programs and services.

Responsibilities of the Council:

- Conducting a periodic statewide needs assessment concerning the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs;
- Identifying opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination among Federally-funded and State-funded child development, child care, and early childhood education programs and services;
- Developing recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children in existing Federal, State, and local child care and early childhood education programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations; and
- Developing recommendations regarding statewide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood educators.

Membership:

Members of the Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) are appointed by the Governor as per federal requirements and executive order. The Governor's appointed Co-Chairs are the Department of Children and Families Secretary and Department of Public Instruction State Superintendent.

Members include key leaders in early learning and care, health, child welfare and mental health, as well as state agencies, advocacy organizations, foundations, businesses, higher education and others involved in the provision of services to young children and their families.

Accountability:

The Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) annually reports to the Governor on its progress and achievements and identifies future work.

Structure: Steering Committee

In 2010, the ECAC has appointed a Steering Committee, co-chaired by Council members and comprised of additional Council members and agency staff, to advance the Council's work. The Steering Committee is charged with the following responsibilities:

- Providing ongoing input to current and future funding opportunities
- Coordinating and advancing the work of the ECAC
- Guiding and coordinating the work of various early childhood stakeholder groups to ensure systemic approaches to Council priorities
- Reviewing and assessing all formal recommendations for consideration by the Council
- Finalizing Council meeting agendas
- Providing recommendations on the annual report to the Governor
- Coordinating meetings with project team chairs to ensure needed collaboration and consistency across various domains

The Steering Committee works closely with the assigned staff team and project teams to implement the work. This reflects a structure that replaces the prior Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners – WECCP Action Team while retaining the other structures of WECCP, including the list serve, website, videoconferences and coaches. In addition, the Committee attempts to connect other early childhood input groups with the appropriate Project Teams to ensure a comprehensive, quality system of early care and education for Wisconsin's youngest citizens.

Structure: ECAC Project Team

Organizational Structure:

- The ECAC Steering Committee will designate the necessary project teams, overall purpose statements, and membership consideration.
 - Project Team reports will go to the ECAC Steering Committee for consideration of presentations/recommendations to the full ECAC.
 - A member of the ECAC Steering Committee/Staff Team will be assigned to be a liaison between the ECAC Steering Committee and the Project Team.
- Each project team will have at least two co-chairs representing the public and private sectors.
 - The Team Co-chairs will finalize membership, define key considerations, define reporting processes, and timelines.
- Each project teams will consist of membership from:
 - within the ECAC members/designees,
 - related program areas with state departments,
 - relevant agencies and association, and
 - established input groups

Current Project Teams:

The work of the Council is carried out by Project Teams led by Council members and comprised of other stakeholders with knowledge and expertise in specific early childhood domains. These time-limited Teams are charged with achieving specific goals and objectives. The Steering

Committee oversees the creation of project teams and coordinates the flow of information to and from the ECAC and each Project Team.

2012 Project Teams (see additional document for details on each Project Team):

- Screening and Assessment
- Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System
- Public-Private Partnerships
- Family and Community Partnerships
- Preventive Oral Health
- Obesity Prevention
- Professional Development Initiative

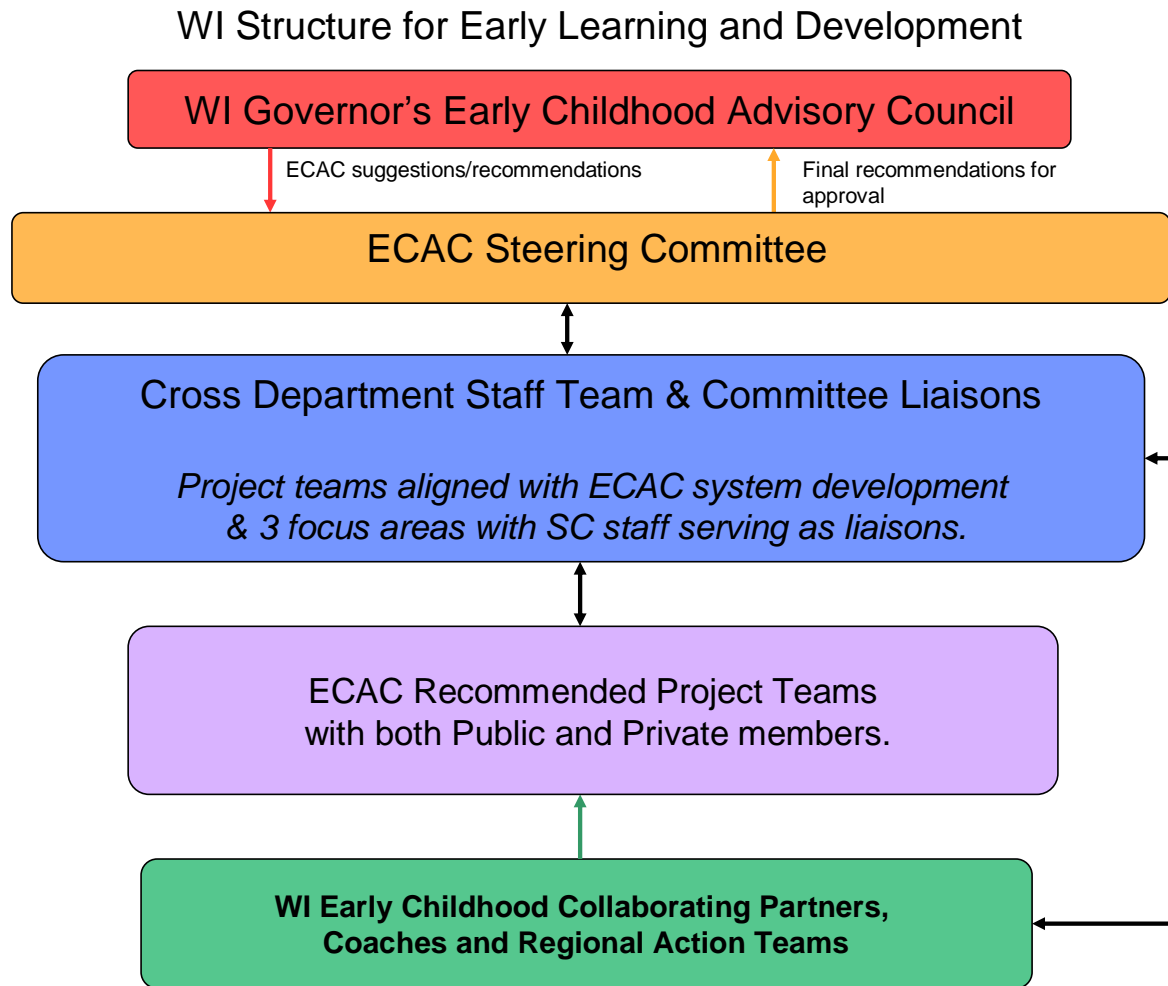
Structure: Cross Department Staff Team

In 2012, The ECAC created a cross department staff team to support the work of the ECAC, Steering Committee and the Project Teams. The Cross Department Staff Team will:

- Reduce siloed activities and promote interagency coordination and collaboration
- Support the ECAC Steering committee and various committees
- Align work of ECAC and departments
- Maximize state resources, reduce duplication, and identify gaps

Cross Department Staff Team Responsibilities:

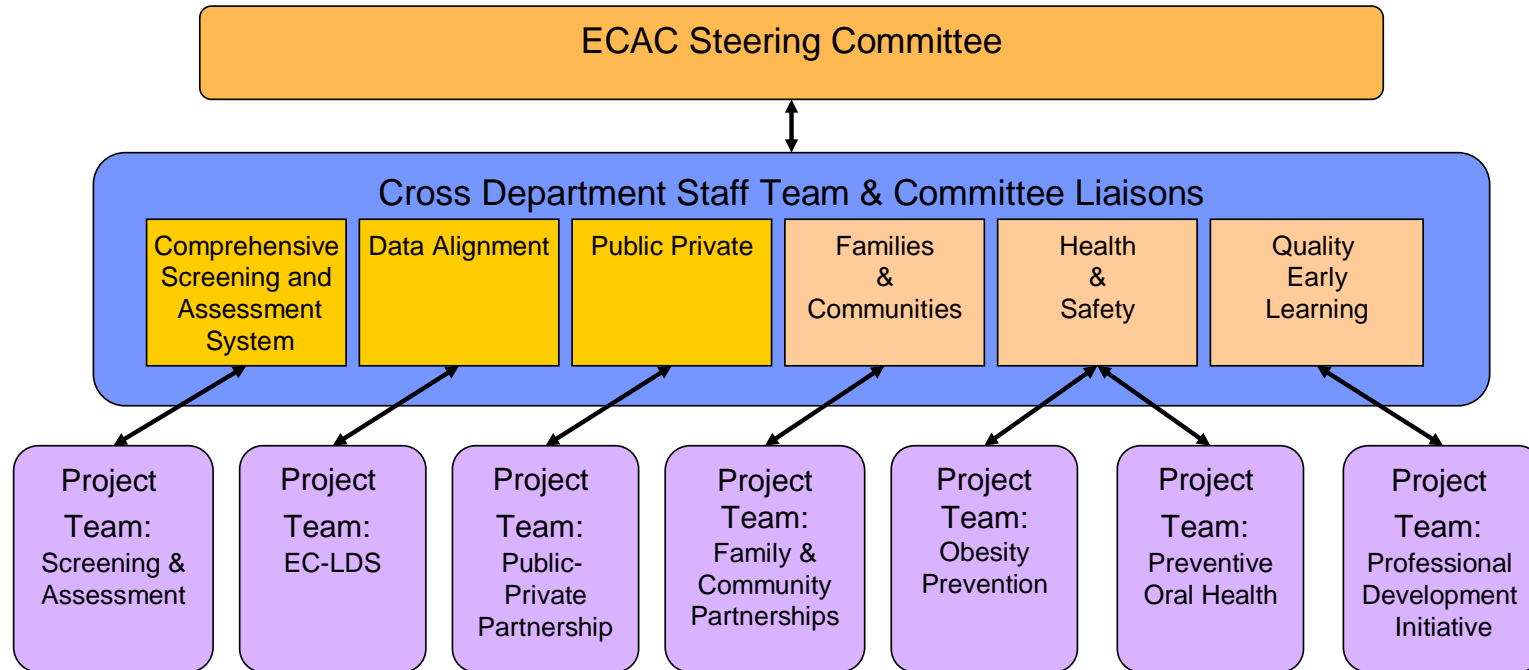
- Co-chaired by the lead ECAC staff from each department.
- Consist of program level representatives from each department
- Meet periodically to promote cross department and internal alignment on ECAC vision and recommendations
- Serve as an input and collaborative group with the DPI Office of Early Learning
- If assigned, members may act as a liaison to the ECAC Steering Committee and specific ECAC Project Teams (could be co-chair or liaison member)
- Staff members may be assigned to participate in ECAC Project Teams or other cross department efforts
- Staff members may be assigned as liaisons to ECAC committees and may be asked to attend ECAC Steering/Council meetings as needed.



*The WI Early Childhood Collaborating Partners Action Team has been folded into this revised committee structure.

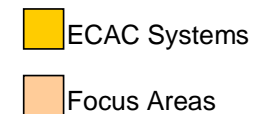
WI Structure for Early Learning and Development

*Project teams aligned with ECAC system development
& 3 focus areas with SC staff serving as liaisons.*



*The Wisconsin Early Childhood Collaborating Partners Action Teams have been folded into to this structure.

*Outside Individuals/Groups have an opportunity to participate in a project by indicating interest to the SC member chair or the project team leader.



**Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council
Project Team Template
Working Draft 2/15/12**

<i>Section to be completed by the ECAC Steering Committee</i>	
Name of Project Team:	
Co-Chairs: Public- Private-	
ECAC Steering committee Liaison	
Related ECAC Goal, Charge, or Recommendation	
Anticipated Outcome	
Brief Rationale: Why is this important: Charge:	
Membership Consideration	
<i>Section to be completed by the Project Team Co-Chairs</i>	
Final Membership:	
Meeting Schedule	
Objectives or Strategies to address charge:	
Measurement Of Success:	
Reporting Timeline:	
Outcome Deliverable or Documentation:	
Notes:	